

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-13, 15-17, 19-21 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 11-13, 15-17 and 19-21 without introducing any new matter.

The June 1, 2005 Office Action rejected Claims 11-13, 15-17 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sonetaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,392) in view of Acampora (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,163).

In response to a Request for Reconsideration filed by Applicants on September 2, 2005, the October 18, 2005 Advisory Action upheld the rejections made by the June 1, 2005 Office Action.

To clarify Applicants' invention, independent Claim 19 is amended to recite "analog-to-digital converters coupled to said multiplexing unit, configured to convert the respective demultiplexed signals from digital to analog, so as to output respective analog signals," and to better comply with U.S. claim drafting practice. Independent Claims 20-21 are amended to recite a similar feature. This feature finds non-limiting support in the disclosure as originally filed, for example at page 21, lines 7-16 and in Figures 3 and 5. Further, all the dependent claims are amended to be in accordance with the changes made to the respective independent claims.

In light of the amendments to the independent claims, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 11-13, 15-17 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and traverse the rejection, as discussed next.

Briefly recapitulating, amended, independent Claim 19 relates to a central control station configured to control base stations connected thereto, and is connected to an upper-level station. The central control station includes, *inter alia*: a demultiplexing unit configured

to generate a plurality of demultiplexed signals for transmission to the base stations; analog-to-digital converters coupled to the multiplexing unit, configured to convert the respective demultiplexed signals from digital to analog, so as to output respective analog signals; analog signal conversion units coupled to said analog-to-digital converters, configured to convert the respective analog signals into *converted analog signals having a common transmission format*, and a distribution unit, configured to provide changeable interconnections between said analog signal conversion units and said transceiver units for the converted analog signals having the common transmission format.

As explained in Applicants' specification at page 5, lines 5-23, Claim 19 improves upon background central control stations, since demultiplexed signals are converted into unified transmission format, and therefore hardware resources can be efficiently used.

Turning now to the applied references, Sonetaka describes a system for optimal assignment of radio channels, by setting up channels in a master and slave configuration with base-stations 3 and base station control stations 2.¹ Sonetaka further explains at column 3, lines 28-47 that the access system between the base station control station 2 and the base stations 3 can use TDMA, CDMA and FDMA. Accordingly, Sonetaka fails to teach or suggest the analog-to-digital converters coupled to the multiplexing unit, as recited in amended, independent Claim 19, and therefore also fails to teach or suggest the distribution unit configured to provide changeable interconnections between the analog signal conversion units and said transceiver units for the converted *analog signals having a common transmission format*.

The reference Acampora, relied upon by the outstanding Office Action to form the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection, does not remedy the deficiencies of Sonetaka. Acampora describes a broadband access system, for providing high-quality, bandwidth-upon-demand,

¹ See Sonetaka in the Abstract, and in Figure 1

communication services to homes and offices, the system based on Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) transport.² In Acampora, an ATM switch 117 links all the signals to a control processor 114.³ However, the ATM switch 117 is only able to process digital signal packets being in the ATM format. Accordingly, Acampora also fails to teach or suggest a distribution unit which is provided between said analog signal conversion units and said transceiver units, configured to provide changeable interconnections between said analog signal conversion units and said transceiver units for the converted analog signals having a common transmission format, as recited in Applicants' Claim 19.

Therefore, even if the combination of Sonetaka and Acampora is assumed to be proper, the combination fails to teach every element of the claimed invention. Specifically, the combination fails to teach or suggest the features related to the changeable interconnections for converted analog signals with a common transmission format. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse, and request reconsideration of, this rejection based on these patents.⁴

Independent Claims 20-21 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in independent Claim 19. Moreover, Claims 20-21 have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 19. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 19, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 20-21, and all associated dependent claims, are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 19-21.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in

² See Acampora in the Abstract, and at column 6, lines 24-35

³ See Acampora at column 16, lines 4249, and in Figure 3a.


⁴ See MPEP 2142 stating, as one of the three "basic criteria [that] must be met" in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, that "the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations," (emphasis added). See also MPEP 2143.03: "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art."

condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 11-13, 15-17, 19-21 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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